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NEWPORT (SALOP) URBAN DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1 9 2 5

TO THE NEWPORT (SALOP) URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances, administration and Vital Statistics of the district for the year ending December 31st 1925.

The Memorandum of the Ministry of Health dated December 1925 directs that a Survey Report be prepared for the year dealing with (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of Public Health. (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area. (c) Any further action of importance in the organization and development of public health services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres).	-	768
Population at the Census 1921.	-	3082
" estimated R. G. 1925.	-	3125
Number of inhabited houses (1921).	-	718
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921).	-	724
Rateable value.	-	£15,000
Sum produced by a penny rate.		

Newport is the centre of an extensive agricultural area, for which it is the market town.

The industries are those associated with Agriculture, viz: Brewery, Creamery, Timber Yard and Engineering Works. It is in addition a residential place.

VITAL STATISTICS. The births during the year totalled 54 of which 22 were males and 28 females. The Birthrate was 17.2, the average for the previous five years being 19.8 and the rate for England and Wales for 1925, 18.3. Four births, equal to 7.4% were illegitimate.

Thirty nine deaths were registered belonging to the district, and the resulting death-rate is 12.4, the average for the preceding five years being 14.6, and the rate for the whole country for the year: 12.2

The chief causes of death were: Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system 2; Cancer 5; Diabetes 1; Cerebral Haemorrhage 3; Heart Disease 9; Arterio-sclerosis 2; Bronchitis 2; Pneumonia 1; Nephritis 2; Congenital Malformation 1; Deaths from Violence 5; and other defined diseases 6. Half the deaths were in persons over seventy years of age.

The average death-rate over the period appears to be somewhat high, but when the preponderance of elderly persons living in the area is allowed for the rate would be much lower.

The factor for finding the corrected death-rate which would be comparable with other districts has not been got

out by the Registrar-General since the war for the smaller areas such as Newport.

The death-rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .6 and of Cancer 1.6 per thousand of the population, as compared with an average for 1920-24 inclusive of .5 and 1.7 respectively.

INFANTILE MORTALITY Only one death took place of an infant under twelve months and the Infantile Mortality Rate is 18 per thousand births, as compared with an average of the previous five years of 48. The rate for England and Wales for the year is 75.

The cause of death was Mongolism.

The consistently low level of the Infant death, points to efficient child welfare work done by the Health Visitors for the area, and is a matter for congratulation.

BIRTH DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

	<u>1920 - 1924.</u>		<u>Infantile</u>
	<u>Birth-rate.</u>	<u>Death-rate</u>	<u>Mortality</u>
			<u>Rate.</u>
1920	24.0	15.0	69
1921	19.4	13.3	66
1922	20.7	17.5	32
1923	18.6	14.5	34
1924	15.3	12.7	41
	-----	-----	-----
Average			
1920 - 24.	19.8	14.6	48
	-----	-----	-----
1925.	17.2	12.4	18

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA,
HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL
AUTHORITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL.

1. Tuberculosis: 1. Shirlett Sanatorium: 2 Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry. 3. Prees Heath Sanatorium.
2. Maternity. Beds in Newport Nursing Home.
3. Childrens. Nil.
4. Fever. At Newport 4 beds: 2 wards: also at Monkmoor.
5. Smallpox. At Wellington, 12 beds.
6. Other. Home for Ailing Babies, Wellington, 12 cots.

All these Hospitals except the Fever are either subsidised by, or belong to the County Council.

The local Fever Hospital is useful for the isolation of mild cases, but where they require skilled nursing they are sent to Monkmoor Hospital at Shrewsbury.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The County Council Ambulance is used for Tuberculosis and Infectious cases.

There is none in the district for accident and other cases.

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre. This is held at the Nurses Home, Newport, and is staffed by the County Council, but under a local Committee.

Day Nurseries. None.

School Clinic At the Nurses Home.

Tuberculosis Dispensary. At Wellington.

V. D. At Shrewsbury.

Public Health Officers. Mr. Reginald C. Bryan is the Sanitary Inspector and holds the Certificate of the Sanitary Institute. He also acts as Surveyor, Superintendent of the Sewerage Works and Waterworks engineer. A contribution to his salary and that of the Medical Officer is made by the Ministry under the Public Health Acts.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a). General. The local Nursing Association provide district nurses, who do general nursing in the house.

(b) For Infectious Diseases. The County Council provide nurses in epidemics of Influenza, Measles and Whooping Cough and also in cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

MIDWIVES. The District Council do not employ or subsidise any midwives.

There are five residing in the district, three at the Nurses Home and two practising independently.

Chemical Work. Samples of the town drinking water are sent periodically to Messrs. Bostock Hill & Rigby for analysis. None were sent during 1925.


Legislation in Force. The P.H. Acts (Amendment) Act 1890 Part III and Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890 have been adopted, also Parts II, III, IV, (Sec. 52 to 56 and 58) and Part V of the P.H. (Amendments) Acts 1907. By-laws are in force in respect to Nuisances, New Streets and Buildings, Slaughterhouses and Common Lodging houses.

The adoption of Parts II to V of the Public Health Act 1925 is I think very desirable; it would assist very materially in the work of the sanitary department.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER. The district has a public supply laid on to the houses and to public standpipes. The water is derived from three wells sunk and bored into the Bunter-beds of the New Red Sandstone at the south end of the district. The water is pumped by an oil engine and pump to a covered reservoir, whence it is laid on to the town. The Reservoir holds 152,000 gallons and gives a head of 130 feet above the centre of the town. The consumption averages about 30 gallons per head per day.

Four houses were connected to the supply during the year.



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DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Practically every house within reasonable distance of the sewer are connected to it. The exceptions include a few that discharge their sewage into the Strine Brook and they have been the subject of notice for some time.

Five houses were connected to the sewers during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The Council with a view to compelling owners to convert their Closets to the water carriage system after due notice, ceased to scavenge the privies. Unfortunately this action has not produced the desired effect, only one being converted during that year. I think direct action should be taken or the remaining closets be converted by the Council by means of a loan for the purpose.

SCAVENGING House refuse is removed by the Council's employees and disposed of on a tip provided outside the town. Some progress has been made in the provision of covered ash receptacles and the abolition of ashpits.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

I append to this report an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector of the work carried out during the year.

Twelve legal and eleven informal notices were served in addition to a number of verbal ones, and eleven were complied with.

New drains were provided at a number of premises and five connected to the Public Sewer.

Of the 33 notices for conversions which were issued as a result of a complete survey by myself and Mr. Bryan and a subsequent report, only one was completed.

Twenty offensive accumulations, partly the result of the withdrawal of service of night soil scavenging, were dealt with.

The Council undertook to do the work on payment.

The Common Lodging-house was the subject of notice to improve its sanitary condition and bring it into line with the Byelaws. The work was carried out satisfactorily.

SCHOOLS. The only closure during the year was the Church of England Infant Department in February and March on account of the prevalence of mumps.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Whilst there has been little variation in the population during the last twenty years, there is a need for houses to replace a number of old worn out cottages, which occupy the lanes and courts opening off the main street. Many are barely fit for habitation.

The amount may be fairly adequate but in the essentials of healthy dwelling there is much that is seriously lacking.

There is little doubt that the erection of a further instalment of the Council's Housing Scheme would enable some

to be closed, that have been scheduled for that purpose for some years and consequently have had^{no} notices served on them for any improvements.

Only one case of overcrowding was dealt with, it was due to the lack of bedroom accommodation and the size of the family. It was relieved by getting the girls out to service.

The general standard of housing^{is} distinctly good and the chief defects are those due to age or situation of the dwellings. Difficulties in dealing with them often arise through the owners not being in a position to put them in repair owing to the expense. Whilst notices were served for the repair of seventeen houses during the year, the work was only completed at five. One representation was made for closure and the Order was given by the Council.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a)	Total.	-	1
(b)	With State Assistance.	-	0

I. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects. - 19

(2) Number of dwelling-houses that were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910. - 14

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. - 1

(4) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 18

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. - 5

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925. Nil.

B. Powers under the Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. - 7

2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices. - 0

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of a Closing Order. - 1

2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made. - 1

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were determined. | - | 0 |
| 4. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | - | 0 |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply. No complaints have been received in regard to the quality of the Milk sold in the district. The Police take the samples for analysis and they are forwarded to the County Analyst at Chester. The Dairies and Cowsheds have been regularly inspected and found in good structural condition, three required notice in respect to cleanliness of the sheds and surroundings.

No action was required under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act 1915 or the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922.

(b) Meat The Surveyor Mr. Bryan was appointed Meat Inspector at a salary of £20 a year.

The slaughterhouses have been visited regularly at the time of slaughtering. One carcase of beef and parts of another together with the offal were condemned and destroyed during the year.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 have been brought to the notice of the Butchers and are being enforced.

The number of private Slaughterhouses in use in the Area were:-

	<u>1920</u>	<u>In January, 1925.</u>	<u>In December 1925</u>
Registered	0	0	0
Licensed.	8	8	9

(c) Other Foods. A basket of eggs were seized and destroyed and the owner warned not to attempt to sell stale eggs again. Otherwise a prosecution would result.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the period under review 1920 - 1924 the district has been very free from notifiable Infectious Disease. Only eight cases of Diphtheria and twelve of Scarlet Fever occurring. The Isolation Hospital in the District has been utilised for mild cases requiring simply isolation, but home isolation has been as a rule successful, no epidemic of either disease occurring. There is an arrangement with the Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury, to receive cases requiring skilled nursing, that cannot remain at home.

One case of Encephalitis Lethargica occurred in a visitor and he was immediately conveyed back home.

Five Malaria cases were notified, none of them of local origin.

ANTHRAX. One case occurred in a butcher sent to dress an animal on a farm. He was taken to the Stafford Infirmary and recovered.

Notifiable disease (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1925.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Diphtheria.	9	0	0
Erysipelas.	2	0	0
Pneumonia.	1	0	1
	-----	-----	-----
	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>

The outbreak of Diphtheria was confined to the boys and Staff at the Grammar School. They were all mild cases with a large per centage merely carriers discovered by bacteriological examination of contacts.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during 1925.

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5				1				
10			1					
15		1						
20	1							
25		1				1		
35	1					1		
45								
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	2	2	1	1	0	2	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Of the four cases notified during the year of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, two received treatment at Shirlett and of the non-pulmonary one was for a period in Much Wenlock Hospital.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED E. WHITE.

June 10th 1926.

The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the Year ending 31st December, 1925, in the Newport Urban Sanitary District.

a Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey. - 100

a Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises.

Number of legal notices sent.	-	-	12
Number of informal notices sent.	-	-	11
Number of such notices complied with.	-	-	11
Number of letters written.	-	-	58

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES:-

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease.	-	-	1
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply.	-	-	-
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended.	-	-	17
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction.	-	-	33
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition.	-	-	-
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds.	-	-	20
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance.	-	-	-
(h) Houses overcrowded.	-	-	1

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis).	-	-	-
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis.	-	-	2
Privies converted to water closets.	-	-	1
Privies converted to earth closets.	-	-	-
Plans for new houses passed.	-	-	4
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses.	-	-	-
Houses connected to public water supply.	-	-	4
Repairs to public pumps and wells.	-	-	1
New public wells.	-	-	-
Private wells re-constructed or improved.	-	-	-
Houses connected to public sewerage.	-	-	5
Lengths of new sewers laid.	-	-	-
Lengths of new water mains laid.	-	-	-

Proceedings before Magistrates for: Nil.

Remarks: Further progress is now being made with the conversion of privies into water closets.

(Signed) R. C. BRYAN, Inspector.

Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops for the Year
ended 31st December, 1925, in the Newport Urban
Sanitary District.

Number of cowkeepers and milksellers on register.			17.
Number of premises:			
cowsheds.	-	-	8.
dairies.	-	-	3
milkshops.	-	-	2
Number of inspections.	-	-	75.
Defects found (1) in cowsheds:			
(a) floor or cubic space.	-	-	
(b) ventilation.	-	-	
(c) lighting.	-	-	
(d) structure of floor.	-	-	
(e) drainage.	-	-	
(f) cleanliness.	-	-	3
(2) in surroundings of cowsheds.	-		3
(3) in sanitary condition of drains.			-
(4) in sanitary condition of milkshops.			-
(5) in water supply.			-
Number of notices - verbal and written.	-		3
Number of these notices complied with.	-		3
Number of defects found and not yet remedied.	-		-

(Signed) R. C. BRYAN,

Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

for the Urban District of Newport, on the administration of
the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. Inspection of FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.
 Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
 Inspectors of Nuisances.

<u>Premises.</u> (1)	<u>Inspections.</u> (2)	<u>Number of Written Notices.</u> (3)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries).	45	2
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries).	70	2
Total	115	4

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

<u>Particulars</u> (1).	<u>Number of Defects Found.</u> (2)	<u>Remedied</u> (3)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:		
Want of cleanliness.	2	2
(insufficient.	2	1
(Unsuitable		
Sanitary accommodation (or defec-		
(tive.	1	-
(Not separate		
(for sexes.	1	1
Total	6	4

(Signature) A. E. WHITE,
 Medical Officer of Health.

Date June 10th, 1926.

